



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
4551 LLEWELLYN AVENUE, SUITE 5000
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5000

IMND-MEA-PWE

May 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR Restoration Advisory Board Members

SUBJECT: Minutes for the March 21, 2013 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

1. The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting was held on March 21st, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Captain John Smathers Army Reserve Center, Hwy 175, Fort Meade, Maryland. The next RAB meeting will be **Thursday, May 16th, 7 p.m.**, at a location to be determined at a later date.

2. The following RAB members were present:

Mr. Tim Berkoff, Community Member
Mr. John Burchette, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (by phone)
Mr. Mick Butler, Fort Meade Co-Chair
Mr. Paul Fluck, Fort Meade Restoration Manager
Mr. Martin Madera, Community Member
Mr. Harry Neal, Community Member
Mr. David Tibbetts, Community Co-Chair
Ms. Kerry Topovski, Anne Arundel County

3. Members not present:

Mr. Rusty Bristow, Community Member
Mr. Wayne Dixon, Community Member
Ms. Laurie Haines, Army Environmental Command
Ms. Ivana Maksimovic, Community Member
Mr. Howard Nicholson, Community Member
Mr. Kurt Riegel, Community Member
Mr. Fred Tutman, Community Member

4. Others present were:

Mr. Walt Chahanovich	Fort Meade, Office of SJA
Mr. John Cherry	ARCADIS
Mr. Bill Delk	Anne Arundel County
Ms. Sarah Gettier	URS
Ms. Elisabeth Green	Maryland Department of the Environment
Ms. Katrina Harris	Bridge Consulting Corp.
Mr. Jerry Kashatus	URS

Mr. George Knight	Fort Meade Environmental Division
Ms. G. Lee	Resident
Ms. A. Lee	Resident
Ms. Denise Tegtmeyer	Fort Meade Environmental Division (Versar)
Ms. Nicole Walworth	Fort Meade Environmental Division (Versar)

5. Announcements and Minutes:

a. Mr. Paul Fluck welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mr. Fluck invited all present to introduce themselves. Mr. Fluck advised Mr. John Burchette of EPA was on speakerphone due to travel restrictions.

b. Mr. Fluck reminded everyone of the importance of signing out and the location of restrooms and exit doors. Mr. Fluck thanked the National Guard for providing meeting room space.

c. Mr. Martin Madera made a motion to approve the January 17, 2013, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted to approve the January 17, 2013, minutes.

6. Outstanding Items:

a. Mr. Fluck stated an outstanding item is the desire of the Board to increase community membership, especially in underrepresented areas such as Laurel. He advised that he has had some communications with Fort Meade's Public Affairs Office and their resources are limited right now, but they can help in some respects. He stated the Public Affairs Office had expanded the press release sent out prior to Board meetings to include information about membership opportunities. Mr. Fluck said to reach areas like Laurel, there will probably need to be a targeted newspaper notice or contact with community organizations. Mr. Fluck asked for any other suggestions. Mr. Madera said he lived about a mile from the Laurel line, and he would convey the membership opportunity to some of his contacts.

b. Mr. Berkoff suggested membership opportunities also be conveyed to individuals who live or work on-post and off-post communities who are very close to the property line. Mr. Mick Butler mentioned there are other ways that people who live and work on Fort Meade receive information such as the Environmental Quality Control Committee meetings and a quarterly Commanders meeting. Mr. Butler said town hall meetings and newspaper articles are also other ways environmental projects are communicated to and with the on-post community. Mr. Berkoff said it would still be helpful for on-post representatives to have the level of detail on projects as is provided at the Board meetings, and Mr. Butler agreed.

c. Mr. Fluck stated a second outstanding item are discussions he and Ms. Walworth have been having with Mr. Tim Berkoff on finding ways to better visualize some of Fort Meade's environmental data. Mr. Fluck said Fort Meade has provided Mr. Berkoff with some data recently, and the same data, a map, had been provided to all Board members. Mr. Fluck confirmed with Mr. Madera that he had received the map. Mr. Madera said he had and it was a

very helpful piece of information. Mr. Fluck said the map is based on current data and will be updated as new information continues to be received from field investigations. Mr. Harry Neal asked about adding all of the monitoring wells, and Mr. Fluck said the high number of monitoring wells, hundreds in addition to more than a hundred currently being added to the monitoring network, would make it difficult to show on a map as the map would be covered. Mr. Fluck said they will work on adding the wells to a map, and Mr. Neal suggested perhaps just the wells that are used to delineate a specific plume could be shown. Mr. Fluck thanked Mr. Berkoff again for his suggestions.

d. Mr. Fluck discussed the process of obtaining the information from the Army as requested by Mr. Berkoff. Mr. Fluck said the Department of Defense sees a Board member to be the same as any community member and has no more or less visibility. Mr. Fluck said if a Board member wanted to request any information, they could call or email him and he will help facilitate the request. He said Mr. David Tibbetts, the community co-chair, asked that Mr. Fluck briefly discuss the Freedom of Information Act, and Fort Meade's counsel, Mr. Walt Chahanovich, had prepared a presentation.

7. Freedom of Information Act Briefing:

a. Mr. Chahanovich explained the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a way to obtain access to Federal government records. He stated there are equivalent State laws for obtaining information from a state.

b. Mr. Chahanovich displayed a list of who can file a FOIA request which includes U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, organizations, universities, businesses, and state and local governments. He noted there are some exceptions such as the intelligence community being precluded from releasing records to foreign governments or international government organizations.

c. Mr. Chahanovich discussed what constitutes a "record." He displayed the definition as "the product(s) of data compilation, such as all books, papers, maps, and photographs, machine readable materials, including electronic form or format, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by an agency of the United States Government under law in connection with the transaction of public business and in possession and control at the time the request is made."

d. Mr. Chahanovich gave an example of GIS data and said the issues would be whether it is a record and, since the Army is assisted by two contractors in developing the data, are the contractors' records releasable. He advised if the Army maintains the data in the normal course of business, it becomes a government record; if the Army does not maintain it, it is not a government record. He noted in the second case the "record" would be the contract maintained with the contractor. He said if the government does not have the requested record, it does not have an obligation to create the record and the request can be denied.

e. Mr. Chahanovich discussed how a FOIA request is filed. He said it is helpful to label it a FOIA request. He said it is also helpful to send it to the department of the government which you think has the record; if they do not have the record, they will pass it on to the correct agency. He stated if the record is voluminous, the government has the right to charge the requester for the government labor, copying costs, and other associated costs. He noted the requester can ask for a waiver of the costs. Mr. Chahanovich said it is also helpful if the requested records can be described in sufficient detail so they can be located with a reasonable amount of effort.

f. Mr. Chahanovich said there are nine exemptions which can be evoked in response to FOIA requests and gave a citation where the nine exemptions can be found. He said they included national security interests, attorney records in criminal investigations, and incomplete records. He said if an exemption is claimed, the request is considered denied, and the requester is notified. He noted also some information can be redacted in a record.

g. Mr. Chahanovich advised there is a Department of Defense FOIA web site which has a good user manual available for review. Mr. Fluck added that Mr. Chahanovich's presentation will be posted on the Fort Meade environmental web site.

h. Mr. Berkoff asked how long an agency has to respond to a FOIA request. Mr. Chahanovich said the request is typically at least acknowledged within 20 or 30 days and the timeline for response communicated to the requester.

i. Mr. Butler added that the Army wants to make information readily available to Board members and the community, and Fort Meade has several things in place to make it easier for community members. Mr. Butler noted that Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) requires an Administrative Record File be maintained which includes all the documents prepared by the Army and its contractors which Fort Meade and the regulators used to make decisions. He said the Administrative Record File eventually will be on the web site but is now available at the West County library. Mr. Butler encouraged all to use the Administrative Record File and Fort Meade's environmental staff as avenues to pursue information before using the more formal method of a FOIA request.

j. Mr. Berkoff asked if Fort Meade's environmental staff could help with finding information in the Administrative Record File or information previously presented at a Board meeting without a FOIA request. Mr. Chahanovich stated FOIA is primarily intended for individuals who are not known to the government or who do not know how the government works and are looking for information. Mr. Butler added that sometimes requests are made that require significant data mining by staff to pull the information from various documents to provide an answer, and in these cases the government may charge the requester. Mr. Butler said Fort Meade will work with community members as closely and openly as possible within some limits due to the tremendous amount of reports and data developed over many years.

k. Mr. Butler said the environmental staff is small and their job is huge so community members may have ideas for information for which the staff has not yet generated the records.

He noted other agencies may have different information vehicles, and Fort Meade will continue to be open to the Board's suggestions and will try to fulfill requests for information in a different format with help for its contractor support staff. Mr. Butler said he wants the community members to be familiar and comfortable with the data.

8. Operable Unit 4, Lower Patapsco Aquifer Investigation:

a. Mr. Fluck introduced Mr. John Cherry of ARCADIS.

b. Mr. Cherry said he had presented the plans for the off-post drilling at the January 2013 Board meeting. He advised the drilling was underway, and he would be providing an update on the status, as well as previewing the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) which evaluates remedial alternatives for the groundwater at Operable Unit (OU) 4.

c. Mr. Cherry displayed a map showing the location of OU4 in the southeast corner of Fort Meade, surrounding features, and the Odenton area. He stated the investigation has focused on various contamination sources in OU4 related to groundwater contaminant plumes that migrate to the southeast, following the flow of groundwater, off-site into Odenton. He explained trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent, had been detected in the groundwater, as well as tetrachloroethene (PCE) and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄). Mr. Cherry pointed out the areas where there are numerous groundwater monitoring wells, both on-post and off-post. He stated investigations over the years have been conducted to define the nature and extent of contamination and the off-site migration.

d. Mr. Cherry said an important point is that no detections of solvents have been found in off-site residential wells above Federal drinking water standards. In response to a question, Mr. Cherry said there were some trace detections of solvents. Mr. Fluck added that the drinking water wells are generally much shallower than the contamination. Mr. Fluck also noted there was one exceedance of Federal drinking water standards off-post but the location is cross-gradient and more than a mile away, outside the study area referred to by Mr. Cherry. Mr. Cherry advised that the Army has done a significant effort off-post of evaluating where private drinking water wells are located, although the majority of homes in that area are on municipal water supplies. He stated once the private wells were identified, the wells were sampled to assess whether there was any impact.

e. Mr. Cherry reminded the Board the current drilling work is to install three additional monitoring wells to further assess the contamination originating at the source areas on OU4. He stated the three locations are on Dopeco Court, Division Road and Bruce Lane, with the well installation completed at Dopeco Court and Division Road.

f. Mr. Cherry discussed the drilling on Dopeco Court and stated it was done between February 12 and 26. He referenced his presentation in January where he discussed the collection of samples as the drilling proceeded which is called vertical aquifer profiling. He noted samples were generally collected every 20 feet and sent to a laboratory, and the resulting analysis provides a profile of the underground formation and allows for the contamination levels to be

determined from top to bottom. Mr. Cherry said at Dopeco Court seven vertical aquifer profile samples were collected, and a permanent monitoring well was installed which is screened at 290 to 300 feet below ground surface. Mr. Cherry said preliminary observations found some low levels of PCE and TCE around the drinking water standard. He said now that a permanent monitoring well is installed, samples can be collected and the data tied into the larger network of monitoring wells and can provide data on groundwater elevation and contaminant concentrations. Mr. Cherry said the plume maps would be updated with the new information when it is received. Mr. Cherry advised that when the drilling is being conducted and decisions are being made about the monitoring wells, all the information is communicated to the Army and the regulators at EPA and Maryland Department of the Environment.

g. Mr. Cherry stated the same approach was taken at Division Road, with the well at this location begun on February 27 and completed on March 13. He noted six vertical aquifer profile samples were collected. He said based on discussions with the regulators, two nested wells were constructed at this location in the same borehole—270 to 280 feet and 310 to 320 feet below ground surface.

h. Mr. Tibbetts asked about the BTEX detections. Mr. Cherry responded that BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes) was among the compounds the samples were analyzed for and benzene was detected. He noted these are common constituents in gasoline and petroleum. He said the detection was interesting as they are not constituents detected in the monitoring well network on Fort Meade, so the source is unknown. He said the screening level data showed benzene several times above the drinking water standards in one of the six samples collected. Mr. Cherry cautioned there are many possible sources for the benzene, such as cross-contamination on the way to the laboratory. He said more reliable data will be obtained when the monitoring well is sampled upon completion of the drilling of the Bruce Lane well.

i. Mr. Tibbetts and Mr. Fluck discussed the possibility of Board members coming out to see the drilling on Bruce Lane. Mr. Fluck suggested anyone interested email or call him in the next week before the drilling is completed. Mr. Cherry said the residents have been very cooperative in light of the disruption the drilling is causing on their daily routines. He stated there has also been close cooperation with the County and schools to coordinate re-routing of school buses and to shut down the work areas during the times children are walking to and from school buses.

j. Mr. Cherry reviewed the work schedule noting drilling should be done in about a week and the wells sampled in April, followed by analysis and data validation. He said once the data is received, any future efforts will be discussed with the regulators and at future Board meetings.

k. Mr. Cherry next discussed the EE/CA. He stated the Army is working with the regulators to implement a non-time critical removal action at three areas within OU4. He advised the process begins with preparing an EE/CA document which the Board received a copy of in December. He explained the EE/CA assesses alternatives for action which are under consideration for the three areas: Building 2286/2276, Building 2250, and the downgradient

Lower Patapsco Aquifer (LPA) Study Area. He continued explaining the document assesses alternatives against effectiveness, implementability and cost and recommends an alternative for each area. Mr. Cherry said he would discuss each area and the recommended alternative, as well as the overall schedule.

l. Mr. Cherry displayed a graphic depicting the location of each of the three areas. He advised at Building 2286/2276 alternatives are being evaluated to reduce shallow (30 to 40 feet below ground surface) groundwater contamination which is impacting the Lower Patapsco Aquifer. He said at Building 2250, a former post laundry facility, alternatives also are being evaluated for shallow groundwater. He noted the remedial alternative for the downgradient LPA Study Area will address contaminated groundwater which is migrating to the southeast. Mr. Cherry advised the tentative mobilization date for some of these alternatives is the summer of 2013.

m. Mr. Cherry next discussed the recommended alternatives, noting nothing had been approved nor had official public comment been sought, so all of what he is presenting is very preliminary.

n. Mr. Cherry said the Buildings 2286/2276 area was previously used as a motor pool and furniture refinishing building. He said there are known impacts to the shallow groundwater. He said the EE/CA discusses two approaches—a bioremediation approach and chemical oxidation. He advised the recommended alternative for Buildings 2286/2276 is active source treatment using in-situ chemical oxidation. He explained this remedy would involve the injection of a solution into the groundwater which destroys the contamination fairly rapidly although it would take a few years. Mr. Cherry showed a diagram and explained how the process would work through a network of injection wells. He said there would be extensive monitoring which would be explained in more detail in a remedial design document.

o. Mr. Cherry said at Building 2250 large quantities of PCE, a commonly used dry-cleaning solvent, was used in the past when the building was a post laundry facility. He stated the soils and groundwater around the building have been impacted. Mr. Cherry said several remedial alternatives were evaluated, and the one recommended in the EE/CA is air-sparge and soil vapor extraction. He said the contaminated groundwater in this area is very shallow, about 10 to 15 feet below ground surface. Mr. Cherry said vapor intrusion testing inside the building found fairly high levels in the sub-slab. He advised the proposed remediation would treat the shallow perched contaminated groundwater in the immediate vicinity of the building, and there would also be a soil vapor extraction system installed to remediate the soil gas concentrations under the building to ensure there are no future impacts to indoor air. In response to a question about indoor air quality, Mr. Cherry said there have been some low indoor air concentrations detected which the Army is aware of and is handling in terms of communicating with building occupants. Mr. Cherry said no levels have been detected which require immediate action such as evacuation; the low screening levels used can trigger the need for some type action which may be something like additional monitoring. He said the detections are part of the reason for the removal action. He advised it is possible to have high concentrations in the sub-slab which never impact the indoor air but there is always a potential.

p. In response to a question about building use, Mr. Cherry said the building is used for the storage of recyclables prior to sale. Mr. Neal asked if the possibility of demolishing the building has been considered as compared to the expense of remediation. Mr. Butler responded that the contamination has to be remediated under CERCLA, and there is a large investment in recycling equipment in the building. Mr. Butler added that the data has not shown any immediate risk to human health or the environment which would require some type of action as compared to the methane issue at Manor View where there was the potential for an explosive hazard.

q. Mr. Cherry further explained the proposed remedy for Building 2250 noting that the air sparging would use shallow wells to push pressurized air into the sub-surface which would percolate and bubble up to the ground surface which facilitates the stripping of the solvents out of the groundwater. He said at the same time the soil vapor extraction points in the area would be collecting the vapors for treatment.

r. Mr. Cherry said at the LPA Study Area a containment system is proposed for the deeper, mid-plume concentrations to minimize the possible off-post impact. He explained the approach is a system of extraction wells at 160 to 180 feet deep to pull out the groundwater to match the rate of groundwater flow through the area, so there would not be dewatering of the formation or significant impacts on the groundwater formation. He continued explaining that the air stripper would pull the solvents out of the groundwater, and then under permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the clean groundwater would be re-injected downgradient through another series of wells in the LPA. Mr. Cherry added that some of the clean groundwater would be discharged to surface water.

s. Mr. Cherry next reviewed the overall schedule for OU4. He noted the EE/CA is expected to be finalized in April. He said the work plan for the actions is being developed, and a draft will be provided to the regulators and the Board soon with an estimated date of July for a final work plan. He reiterated that the schedule for implementing the actions is to start this summer. He noted approximately 48 wells will need to be installed which will take several months. Mr. Cherry said the Board will be kept informed as the project progresses.

t. Ms. Kerry Topovski asked if the EE/CA can move forward without the data from the new off-site wells. Mr. Cherry advised it can move forward as the actions are designed to treat sources of contamination which needs to happen regardless of the results that will be obtained from sampling the off-post wells. Mr. Butler said the concurrent remedial investigation/feasibility study will address any additional remedies that are needed, including the need for any off-post remedy. Mr. Cherry advised the schedule for the remedial investigation/feasibility study is to distribute a draft this summer

9. Manor View Dump Site Update:

a. Mr. Fluck noted Mr. Cherry would be providing an update on the removal action and recent monitoring.

b. Mr. Cherry displayed an aerial photograph of the site showing recent monitoring results. He noted monitoring is now being done monthly with the last round of sampling having been completed in February. He said for the monitoring points in the area, outlined in green on the photograph, the results showed no exceedances of the lower explosive limit for the past four months. Mr. Cherry said the monitoring points near the area where the excavation of woody debris had been expanded show some fluctuating concentrations; he noted these wells are monitored more frequently and had been sampled the past Monday. He advised the results on Monday showed concentrations well below the lower explosive limit. Mr. Cherry said some of the monitoring is changing to a quarterly schedule, except for the points showing fluctuating concentrations which will continue on a monthly basis or more frequently depending on the results.

c. Mr. Butler advised the 700 Club/Christian Broadcasting Network is doing a story on the impact of methane on communities and recently visited the Manor View site. Mr. Butler said he and Mr. Fluck were interviewed.

10. Update on the Nevada Avenue Project:

a. Mr. Fluck introduced Ms. Denise Tegtmeyer of Versar.

b. Ms. Tegtmeyer displayed 12 months of sampling data through February 2013 for the three houses sampled on Nevada Avenue. She also displayed the data on a graph. She noted there have been no significant changes, and the levels show a slight decreasing trend. Ms. Tegtmeyer said the same three houses will be sampled for the next year and provided bottled water. She advised the Army continues to work with the County on an agreement to drill wells in the Anne Arundel County right-of-way.

c. Ms. Tegtmeyer pointed out the locations of monitoring wells 125 and 126 near North Patuxent Road where solvents have been detected above the Federal drinking water standards. She displayed the history of sampling results from 2004 through January 2013.

11. Open Discussion/New Business:

a. Mr. Fluck advised the annual updating of the Installation Action Plan which provides a brief review of all Fort Meade's Installation Restoration Program projects is underway, and a copy will be made available to the Board.

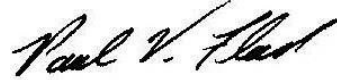
b. Mr. Fluck said it is possible the Board meetings will have to be moved to another location if the National Guard does not agree to continue to allow the meetings to be held in their building. Mr. Fluck noted he would keep the Board advised as negotiations continue.

c. Mr. Fluck invited Board members to contact him with potential topics for the next meeting.

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d. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul V. Butler", written in a cursive style.

for

MICHAEL P. BUTLER
Chief, Environmental Division

CF:
RAB MEMBERS
FGGM GARRISON COMMANDER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE